

What is a Community Covenant?

A Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant introduced nationally by the Government in 2011 which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces Community at a local level. The aim of the Staffordshire Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the Service community in their area and develop an understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community that includes serving and former serving personnel (veterans) and their families and cadets.

The Staffordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant, to which the Borough Council is proud to be a signatory along with other Borough and District Councils across Staffordshire, came into existence in May 2011 following a formal signing of the document at The National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas.

As part of its commitment to the Community Covenant the Borough Council is able to provide advice and guidance on a range of issues including Council Tax/benefits, housing and leisure by clicking onto the links below.

For Housing browse on housing and follow links to Housing Options and Advice and Choice Based Letting where advice on finding a house and links to providers in the locality can be found.

<https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/housing>

For Leisure click on Sports and Culture.

<https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/sport-and-culture>

For Council Tax/benefits advice click on Advice and benefits and follow links to Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit.

<https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/council-tax-and-benefits>

Further information about the Community Covenant can be obtained by clicking on the following link:-

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/community/armed-forces/Armed-Forces.aspx

Community Covenant Grant Scheme

The aim of the Community Covenant Grant Scheme is to financially support projects, at a local level, which strengthen the ties of mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live.

Details of the type of projects that the Fund may support together with information about how to apply can be found on the County Council's web-site by clicking onto the above link. Alternatively you can contact denise.smallman@staffordshire.gov.uk at the County Council who will be happy to assist you.

Links are also provided to the following organisations that may be of use to those seeking advice and assistance:-

Housing Providers

Aspire Housing

www.aspirehousing.co.uk

Beth Johnson

www.bjf.org.uk

Honeycomb Group

<https://www.honeycombgroup.org.uk/>

Health Services

North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust

<https://combined.nhs.uk/>

The NHS

www.nhs.uk?Services?Trusts/Overview/DefaultView.aspx?id=2641

Listed below are a number of organisations that specifically provide advice to the Armed Forces Community:-

Army Benevolent Fund

www.soldierscharity.org

The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen and Families Association

www.ssafa.org.uk

Royal Naval Association

www.royal-naval-association.co.uk

Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Fund

<https://wrnsbt.org.uk/>

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

www.rafbf.org/